

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Claims 17-20, 22, 24-33, 35-36 and 38-54 are pending in the application, with claims 17, 30 and 43 being the independent claims.

Based on the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Drawing Objection

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as failing to illustrate certain claimed features. The Examiner suggests that the claimed "tracking element" does not appear in the figures. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Figure 4, for example, which illustrates a mouse trackball assembly that is capable of tracking the motion of a mouse in any direction. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 17-42 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner states that there is no support for "a tracking element disposed within said housing, said tracking element configured to track a motion of said housing in a first direction and a second direction different from the first direction" (emphasis in original). Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to paragraph [0026] of the specification as published which states that the "mouse is connected to a host unit 12, 14, 16 by means of a signal cable 26 comprising signal lines for track balls, here not shown, transmitters in the x and y-direction."

Applicant further directs the Examiner's attention to Figure 4, which illustrates a mouse trackball assembly that is capable of tracking the motion of a mouse in any direction. Such disclosure would enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use embodiments of the invention.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 17-20, 22-33, 35, 37-51 and 53-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,108 to Salcudean et al. ("the Salcudean patent"). Claims 36 and 52 were not addressed by the Examiner in the rejection based on the Salcudean patent. Applicant has canceled claims 23 and 37, thereby obviating the rejection with respect to those claims.

Independent Claim 17 and its Dependent Claims

Claim 17 recites "a housing having a base, a casing and a button, said casing and said button being movable with respect to said base...and a resilient material *disposed between said casing and said base*, said resilient material configured to deliver the tactile sensation by storing and releasing energy." The Salcudean patent discloses a mouse-type device that includes a housing coupled to a button, which includes a spring. The Salcudean patent fails to disclose or suggest a device having a button, a casing and a spring, where the spring is disposed between the casing and the base. For at least this reason, independent claim 17 is allowable over the cited reference. Based at least on their dependence upon independent claim 17, dependent claims 18-20, 22 and 24-29 are also allowable.

Independent Claim 30 and its Dependent Claims

Claim 30 recites "a housing including a lower portion and an upper portion, said lower portion *movable over a substantially flat surface*, said upper portion being movable with respect

to said lower portion...and *a resilient material disposed between said lower portion and said upper portion*, said resilient material configured to enable the output of the tactile sensation by storing and releasing energy.” The device of the Salcudean patent does not include a lower housing portion movable over a substantially flat surface, where a resilient material is disposed between that lower housing portion and an upper housing portion. For at least this reason, independent claim 30 is allowable over the cited reference. Based at least on their dependence upon independent claim 30, dependent claims 31-33, 35 and 38-42 are also allowable.

Independent Claim 43 and its Dependent Claims

Independent claim 43 recites “receiving at a mouse device a sensory feedback signal, the mouse device having a button, a casing portion and a bottom portion, the button and the casing portion being movable with respect to the bottom portion, a resilient material being disposed between the casing portion and the bottom portion.” As discussed above, the Salcudean patent fails to disclose or suggest a device having a button, a casing and a spring, where the spring is disposed between the casing and the base. For at least this reason, independent claim 43 is allowable over the cited reference. Based at least on their dependence upon independent claim 43, dependent claims 44-51 and 53-54 are also allowable.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason,

that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.


Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

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Cooley Godward LLP
ATTN: Patent Group
One Freedom Square
Reston Town Center
11951 Freedom Drive
Reston, VA 20190-5656
Tel: (703) 456-8000
Fax: (703) 456-8100

Respectfully submitted,
COOLEY GODWARD LLP

By:



Erik B. Milch
Reg. No. 42,887